St Martin of Tours Epsom

St Stephen on the Downs Langley Vale

Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2026

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY





Lest we Forget

ELAINE IS OUR NEW ANNA CHAPLAIN



It was a delight to commission Elaine for this new ministry. Working with the elderly in our community, she will lead a small team, visiting, hosting events, etc.

Elaine says that, ‘With God’s grace and help this will make a difference to the seniors in our community making them feel God’s love and the opportunity to make new friends in a safe loving place’

Starting January 2027
'A cup of tea, a slice of cake and a friendly face can make all the difference'.

As part of my Anna Chaplaincy ministry, I hope to start a Connection Group where people can come together to enjoy friendship, companionship and a warm welcome. Our aim is to create a safe, caring space where people can chat, make friends, share experiences and know that they are valued. To help bring this vision to life, I am looking for a small team of friendly volunteers who might be willing to offer a little of their time. Perhaps you could help by:

- ☕ Making tea and coffee.
- 🍰 Baking an occasional homemade cake.
- 😊 Welcoming people as they arrive.
- 💬 Sitting down for a chat and offering a listening ear.
- ❤️‍🩹 Simply helping to make everyone feel at home.

You don't need any special skills or experience — just a kind heart and a willingness to help.

You may be surprised how much a little kindness can mean to someone who feels lonely. If you would like to be part of this new venture, or would simply like to find out more, please come and have a chat with me. Together, with God's help, we can build friendships, share kindness and remind people that they are never forgotten. *"Together, we can make a difference — one cup of tea, one conversation and one friendship at a time."*

With love and blessings,

Elaine

DIARY

Sunday 8th November REMEMBRANCE DAY

8.30am Holy Communion service at St Martin's
9.30am Remembrance service at Langley Vale
10.45am Remembrance service at St Martin's
6.30pm Second Thoughts at St Martin's
(Refreshments from 5.45pm)
Mary Gilbert and Chris Benson
'In Flanders Fields: Poetry of the First World War'

Mary reflects on the First World War, not merely the tragedy of it, but also on the outpouring of poetry. Brief biographies of a few of the poets and readings of selected works will reflect the range of responses to what they endured, from lyricism to anger at the waste.

Mary began worshipping at St Martin's 10 years ago, having not been a regular churchgoer for about fifty years. She was confirmed in March 2017 and is now on the Pastoral Team, occasionally takes services of Evening Prayer and writes a monthly poetry 'column' for the Newsletter.

Chris is a retired architect who worships at St John the Baptist, Old Malden, where he is an occasional preacher. His passions include renaissance music - he is a viol player and singer - and Morris dancing.

Tuesday 10th November
4.00pm Centering Prayer
An opportunity for silence and prayer

Wednesday 11th November
10.00am Holy Communion service at St Martin's

Thursday 12th November
'Being With the Bible' - 7.30pm-9.00pm in the Lady Chapel

There will be ten sessions altogether, from Genesis to Pentecost, 12 and 19 November, 3 and 17 December, 7 and 21 January and 4 and 11 February. 'Being With' uses a different approach to exploring our Christian faith. Each session is an invitation to listen, reflect and imagine, and share our different experiences.

Each session also includes a talk which seeks to offer a different perspective on a well-known Bible passage. Do contact me if you would like to come along and have not already told me. revjudith@stmartinsepsom.org

Sunday 15th November SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY
9.30am Morning Prayer service at Langley Vale
10.00am Sung Communion service at St Martin's
6.30pm Choral Evensong at St Martin's

17th November at 4pm (*postponed from Nov 3rd*)
Take Time To Talk

All Hallows Eve	Saturday October 31st
All Saints /All Hallows Day	Sunday November 1st
All Souls Day	Monday November 2nd

What is going on over these few days? Join us to explore this time of year in the church. Please bring with you, in one form or another, your favourite saint. Do come and join us - refreshments from 3.45pm. ***Lynne***

Facilities Officer

After a great deal of careful thought, and with advice from both our own HR adviser and the Diocese, the Churchwardens have made the difficult decision that the post of Facilities Officer is no longer needed. Over recent years the way the practical and business side of St Martin's operates has changed considerably, and following a formal consultation, which concluded on Friday 30th October, the role has been made redundant.

Many of you will know that this post has been held by Jay Holloway-Neville. Jay has served St Martin's for more than 20 years, and in that time he has given a great deal to the life of our church, much of it behind the scenes and often unnoticed. In light of the redundancy of the post, Jay has decided to retire from work. We are extremely grateful for all his hard work and commitment over so many years. We will be marking his leaving in the 10am service on 22nd November.

Rob Jeffery & Sarah Lutton, Churchwardens

Update on our Memorial Project
On 15 October we were pleased to welcome to St Martin's members of the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches and Churchyards), including our Archdeacon Martin Breadmore, to discuss this project in situ together with Christina Peake, our artist. This meeting had, unfortunately, been postponed from the summer due to various reasons outside our control. However, when it finally took place, it was a positive meeting and has helped the DAC to remind themselves of our church context and to understand how the memorial will relate to the Brathwaite memorial.

The next stage is for Christina to create detailed drafts of the actual artwork. She envisages an artwork of four main wooden panels and two smaller ones, telling interconnected stories of people linked to Barbados.

Please continue to pray for God's blessing on this project and especially for Christina as she embarks on this important creative stage, and also for the DAC and other bodies involved in the decision-making.

Revd Judith

Parish Giving Scheme
If you are on our mailing list you will have received details of how effective and simple this scheme is. Making it simple to donate regularly by direct debit. If you haven't yet done it. Do follow this link to set up your regular giving:
The Parish Giving Scheme Website

MISSION FOCUS – NOVEMBER

Epsom & Ewell Refugee Network
The network is committed to supporting refugees and asylum seekers in our area. In the decade since they were founded they have grown to meet the needs of an increasing number of refugees. They provide vital services to those new to the country, such as English lessons, help finding work & education, assistance in accessing services, benefits & healthcare, as well as a social network and one-to-one support. See the boards in church or https://epsomrefugeenetwork.org/ for further details.

Alexander Rennie, Mission Committee

St Stephen's Church –
Update on the South Elevation Repairs
We're pleased to share the planned timeline for the repair works at St Stephen's, Langley Vale. The work is being carried out by B. W. May & Son. It covers a new structural frame, new windows and doors, new cladding and internal finishes along the south side of the church.

Off-site preparation (from late October)
Most of the early work happens away from the church. The new timbers arrive at B. W. May's workshop in late October. The frame will then be made there over about four weeks.

Work starts on site – week beginning 16 November
The contractors will set up on site and put protection in place. They will then start on the plinth, the blockwork base and the damp-proof course. This will run through to the end of November.

Frame, windows and cladding – weeks beginning 30 November to 14 December
The new frame goes up first. The new windows and doors, lead flashings and shiplap cladding follow. The aim is for the building to be fully weathertight before Christmas.

Christmas break
No work is planned on site over Christmas and New Year.

Internal works – from week beginning 4 January
Work resumes with insulation, plasterboard and plastering. The plaster then needs about a week to dry. After that come the skirtings, decoration, preparation of the nave floor and new carpet throughout the nave.

Finishing
The final weeks will be spent removing the scaffolding, snagging and cleaning. We hope to have everything finished by the end of January or early February. As with any building project, the timings may change, especially with the weather over the winter months. We'll keep you updated as the work progresses.
Thank you for your patience and support while this important work is done. If you have any questions, please email Rob on wardens@stmartinsepsom.org.

ALL THINGS CHRISTMAS!

Donations for the Christmas Fair
There is a box at the back of church for donations to the Christmas Fair. We need Jigsaws, Unwanted gifts, China and Glass, Jewelry, Toiletries and Chocolate for the Tombola.

Nancy, Sarah and Maureen

CAKES CAKES, CAKES
We need lots of cakes for the Christmas Fair on November 28th The cake stall is one of the most popular stalls and often sells out early. Please plan to make a cake or two and bring them either on Friday 27th or on Saturday 28th. ***Joan Gabbett***

Christmas Tea and Carols
Sunday 13 December 2026 from 3.00 – 5.00 p.m.

This is a reminder to put the date in your diaries. There will be filled rolls, mince pies, Christmas cake, chocolate cake and other goodies, and of course tea and coffee. It will include carol singing round the grand piano. Do please support us and bring your children or grandchildren if you wish. Last Christmas about 50 people came, and we hope this year will be similarly successful. Everyone is welcome; the tea is free, though donations are welcome!



There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the church.
It is not binding but might help us to cater more effectively – especially if the numbers increase by 25% as happened last year.

Mary Gilbert and Elaine Snook



CHRISTMAS CARDS AND ADVENT CALENDARS

I have set up a display of Christmas cards now that the Christmas displays are beginning to appear in the shops! I will add Advent Calendars towards the beginning of November. Advent Candles and some small votive candles are already on display.

There are a wide variety of cards both in design, size and cost, in packets of 10 or 20 cards. The Advent Calenders, when I put them out, come with their own envelopes in case you wish to post them.

Please support St Martin's when buying your Christmas supplies as any profit from the sale of these supplies goes to the church. All the cards are sourced from a variety of charities, therefore by purchasing from the church you will also be helping them as well.

Payment may be made in a variety of ways:

- Cheque: made payable to “The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Epsom” (please either hand in to the office or place in the wall safe in church)
- Donation Station: contactless payments – please use the “Christmas Cards or Cards” button
- Cash: via the wall safe in church – marked “Cards”

I will keep all items topped up but once a design has sold out I may not be able to get any further stock. Please ask me if you are looking for something in particular or more packets than are on display.

Thank you for your custom
Mary Holloway-Neville

PRAYER GROUPS

Evening Prayer on Zoom, weekdays 5-5.30pm
See https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer All are warmly invited to join on an occasional or regular basis. Find us at: https://zoom.us/j/91650281049?pwd=dLiB4jY8FRRdtFcbGBRjaVtMJ9K2Ar.1 or, if you prefer typing details directly into Zoom, use Meeting ID is 916 5028 1049 and passcode 960460.

Centering Prayer: Every other Tuesday, 4pm in Church
“Be still and know that I am God” *Psalm 46:10*. A group meets to pray together in silence. We begin with something to reflect on - a biblical passage or Psalm. After our 20 minutes of silence, we share something that we have noticed during our time together.

Contemplative Prayer: 1st Tuesday of each month, 11am
In the Lady Chapel, St Martin's
A time for focussing on God's presence and allowing oneself to be filled with God's grace. It's a time of stillness and quietness. We listen to the words of God or of Jesus in contemplation. There is an additional zoom Contemplative Prayer session on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 8pm. Find us using the same Zoom details cited above for Evening Prayer.

PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH AND OUR COMMUNITY

Please remember in your daily prayers this week:

Sunday 8th
Our Parochial Church Council – officers and members. Our Children's Church: The Ark – Sarah Jeffery, the children, the parents and volunteers. The Mission to Seafarers and Mission Aviation Fellowship. Those living and working in Chuters Grove, Clayton Road, College Avenue and College Road.

Monday 9th
Our Organist: Iain Macfarlane. Our Welcomers: Meg Topley and the Team. The physical, mental and emotional well-being of the people of Epsom and Langley Vale, local mental health units and Love Me Love My Mind (Our Missions). Copse Edge Avenue, Delaporte Close, Denham Road and Depot Road.

Tuesday 10th
St Stephen's Church: its life, worship and mission to Langley Vale. Safeguarding in our churches: our Parish Safeguarding Officers Revd Judith and Peter Christie, the Diocesan

Safeguarding Team, that all of us create and sustain a safe welcoming inclusive space for everyone. The Bible Society, Spinnaker Trust (Our Missions) and all those teaching RE locally. Digdens Rise, Dirdene Close, Dirdene Gardens, Dirdene Grove and Dorking Road.

Wednesday 11th
Our Bell-ringing Team and Tower Captain Mike Bale. Our Ministry Team. All local young families. Downs Avenue, Downs Hill Road, Downs Road and Downs Way.

Thursday 12th
Our Prayer and Healing Ministry: Contemplative and Centering Prayer. Those who work on our Website, Facebook and YouTube channel. Through the Roof: Wheelchairs for the World (Our Missions) and the Sunnybank Trust (based in Epsom). Downside, East Street and Elmslie Close.

Friday 13th
Our Church Development Plan: for Renewal and Growth. Those who read the Bible through the Bible Reading Fellowship notes and Didi Steck. Those living locally who are housebound and their carers. Farriers Road, Fyfield Close, Grosvenor Road, Grove Avenue and Grove Road.

Saturday 14th
Our Mission Team. Our Church Finances and Our Treasurer. Our MP Helen Maguire. Epsom and Ewell Borough Council: elected members and officers. Hambledon Hill, Hambledon Vale, Harding Road and Hawthorne Place.

Message of Support for Elaine Snook,

being commissioned as an Anna Chaplain on Sunday 1 November 2026

The national Anna Chaplaincy team at BRF Ministries send their love and prayers to you, Elaine, on your commissioning as an Anna Chaplain.

We are delighted to welcome you into the Anna Chaplaincy family. Thank you for your commitment to older people, and for responding to God's call to a new chapter in your discipleship and service.

Thank you to everyone for your support at this commissioning event. Thank you for recognising the gifting of Elaine and for supporting her as she strives for the spiritual flourishing of older people in her community.

We look forward to working with Elaine, and with your church, as you develop this role in the coming months.

With our prayerful support,

Richard Fisher, Debbie Ducille, Julia Burton-Jones, Jane Butcher and Marian Muskett

(BRF Ministries Anna Chaplaincy team)

Lord of our lives,
from the cradle to the grave,
we celebrate this day
those who have the gift of years;
who dream dreams for the sake of our children;
who keep the story on behalf of your church;
and who hold wisdom to pass on to our young.
We rise up before them and call them blessed,
honouring them as our grandparents in the Faith,
within the all-age kingdom of heaven.
Amen

Prayer by Martyn Payne

Anna Chaplaincy for older people

THE POWER OF POETRY – NOVEMBER

In this month of Remembrance, I have chosen a poem by Thomas Hardy, 1840-1928. It is, in a way, a suitable poem for the season, but it is not a familiar one. In fact I came upon it purely by chance in July* so ear-marked it for November before I forgot. I have used poems by Hardy before and I have always liked them. But the following is different from most of the ones I am familiar with. Thomas Hardy wrote it in 1914, a few months *before* the First World War and it is prophetic with a sense of approaching doom.

It is spoken as if by one of the dead buried in the church, and, although the idea of the skeletons in the church sitting up has its amusing side, it is also a little creepy and its message is bleak, despite the humour. The skeletons awake and think Judgment Day has arrived. Their rest has been interrupted by the living: guns thundering, dogs howling, the mouse dropping crumbs, and so on. God calls to the skeletons to resume their rest as it is merely gunnery practice, that nothing has changed, that everyone is fighting wars, and everyone has gone mad.

More than a hundred years after World War 1, and eighty after World War 2, and seemingly nothing *has* changed, and it is difficult when we look about us to find anything to raise our hopes from the image of imminent destruction in a world which gives every sign of having gone mad.

Channel Firing

That night your great guns, unawares,
Shook all our coffins as we lay,
And broke the chancel window-squares,
We thought it was the Judgment-day

And sat upright. While drearisome
Arose the howl of wakened hounds:
The mouse let fall the altar-crumb,
The worms drew back into the mounds,

The glebe cow drooled. Till God called, "No;
It's gunnery practice out at sea
Just as before you went below;
The world is as it used to be:

"All nations striving strong to make
Red war yet redder. Mad as hatters
They do no more for Christés sake
Than you who are helpless in such matters.

"That this is not the judgment-hour
For some of them's a blessèd thing,
For if it were they'd have to scour
Hell's floor for so much threatening....

"Ha, ha. It will be warmer when
I blow the trumpet (if indeed
I ever do; for you are men,
And rest eternal sorely need)."

So down we lay again. "I wonder,
Will the world ever saner be,"
Said one, "than when He sent us under
In our indifferent century!"

And many a skeleton shook his head.
"Instead of preaching forty year,"
My neighbour Parson Thirdly said,
"I wish I had stuck to pipes and beer."

Again the guns disturbed the hour,
Roaring their readiness to avenge,
As far inland as Stourton Tower,
And Camelot, and starlit Stonehenge.

A few brief notes: The word 'unawares' (first line) implies that the men firing guns cause harm without even realising it. The reference in verse 4 to 'Red war yet redder' refers to the Book of Revelation, where one of the horsemen of the Apocalypse is described as red. 'Mad as hatters' is an expression still in use, its origin in the making of felt for hats, a process which involved mercury. Over time mercury accumulated in the hatters' brains and caused them to develop dementia.

For some conventional war poems – one or two familiar, others less so – you may be interested in the **2nd Thoughts** programme for **8th November**. It will begin with an introduction about an aspect of WW1 and will be followed by a brief biography of a few war poets with readings of an example of their poetry.

*This was included in a half-hour video from *"The Salisbury Organist"* on YouTube. I am addicted to these videos and highly recommend them. The one I refer to here is called *Lawrence of Arabia in Dorset.* As well as this poem (read beautifully) the video shows a stunning church at Moreton, Dorset, which I have visited twice in 2016 and 2019, and where T E Lawrence is buried. The church has sublime engraved glass windows by Lawrence Whistler, and the video includes historical and biographical details, including a glimpse of Clouds Hill (T E Lawrence's cottage), and also includes, as all of these videos do, some music.

Mary Gilbert

Submitting an item for the newsletter

Please ensure that all items are emailed to the office marked **'For Newsletter'** in the title by 12 noon on Wednesday, to be included for that week.

Parish Office:
Church House, Church Street, Epsom,
KT17 4PX Phone: 01372 722567
E-mail: office@stmartinsepsom.org
Website: www.stmartinsepsom.org

FOODBANK NEEDED LIST

Tinned Meat, Tinned Fish, Custard
Ketchup/Brown Sauce/Mayonnaise
Jam/Honey/Marmalade/Peanut Butter/Chocolate Spread
Porridge,
Milk UHT (Semi-Skimmed or Whole)
Rice Pudding, Cooking Sauce
Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Potatoes, Rice
Tea (bags), Sugar, Longlife Juice, Squash
Tinned Spaghetti, Instant Coffee
Packet Soup, Sponge Pudding
Chocolate Biscuit Bars
Noodles
Male Deodorant, Hair Conditioner
Washing Powder
Adult Toothbrushes
Shampoo, Tampons

Epsom Choral Society Sat 14th November 7.30pm

We will be singing not one, but two settings of the *Magnificat* or The Song of Mary. The first, by JS Bach, is well-known and well-loved, and is a little baroque gem. The second, composed by Clive Osgood as recently as 2023, was written as a companion piece to the first and uses similar instrumentation, follows the same framework of chorus and solo movements and makes use of a number of features that are typical of Bach's music. As a musical palate-cleanser, we are throwing in Bach's *Lutheran Mass in G minor.* All are a joy to sing and we look forward to sharing this delightful programme with everyone.
We have engaged the services of five outstanding soloists (Lisa Swayne, Ana Beard Fernandez, Henry Capper-Allen, James Beddoe and Mark Nathan) and the English Sinfonietta, and all will be bought together under the baton of our brilliant MD, Julian Collings.
Tickets are priced at just £20, with half-price discount for under-25s and can be purchased online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/epsom-choral-society or by phone from 01372 274418. Every ticket includes a free glass of wine and a complimentary programme, the perfect opportunity to enjoy a memorable night of world-class music in the centre of Epsom. More details are on our website www.epsomchoral.org.uk

Music @ St Martin's

FREE!

Autumn/Winter 2026

Saturday afternoons at 4.30pm

Saturday 26 September

City of London Freemen's School

An opportunity to enjoy the musical talents of the young performers studying at this well-renowned local school.

Saturday 24 October

Duo b!z'art

b!z'art or bizarre? Describing themselves as 'out of the ordinary', this pair of pianists from Belgium evoke childhood with music by Bizet, Ravel & Barber.





Saturday 5 December

Iain Macfarlane - organ

As St Martin's resident organist Iain excels in demonstrating the character and range of this fine Norman & Beard instrument. He plays Bach and plenty more besides.

St Martin of Tours

Church Street
Epsom KT17 7PX

Each concert lasts about an hour

ADMISSION IS FREE BUT WE ASK FOR DONATIONS TO ENABLE US TO CONTINUE OFFERING GREAT MUSIC AT ST MARTINS

www.stmartinsepsom.org • office@stmartinsepsom.org • 01372 722 567